

Council Comments 5/13/15

Joseph Poirier <jpoirier20@gmail.com>

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City Clerk Agenda

To:Lopez, Donna <dlopez@cambridgema.gov>;

My comments from tonight:

thanks,

joe

Joe Poirier, Highland Ave.

I'm here to speak to the reconsideration item on Pearl Street. I'm surprised to see it reappear on the agenda and would like to add two new items to put the reconstruction project into context.

One + Mayor Walsh and the city of Boston have recently announced - to the delight of smart transit advocates everywhere - one of the country's most ambitious complete streets projects on Commonwealth Ave. This nationally-celebrated project should serve as a model for our street reconstruction projects here in Cambridge.

Two + Cambridge sustainable transportation advocates have recently received, via a public records request to the City Solicitor, the e-mails sent to City Council regarding the Pearl Street project. Of the 91 opinions expressed by Cambridge residents, 79 wrote in favor of a non-status quo redesign of Pearl Street. Only ten wrote against. ***I've brought some visual aids from my grocery shopping to illustrate this data. These bags of potatoes represent the Cambridge residents in support of redesigning Pearl Street for the future. These bags of potatoes represent residents opposed to a redesign that removes parking. As you can see, there are many, many more potatoes in favor of redesigning Pearl Street.***

Of residents that live on Pearl Street, a majority wrote you in favor of a Complete Streets redesign, even if it inconveniences their parking. In Cambridgeport as a whole, residents were also overwhelming in favor of a non-status quo redesign. I will note that these two groups are not mutually exclusive or inherently opposed, and can be brought together by you, the City Council. I hope you will do all in your power to improve this transportation corridor in Cambridge. That starts with not abandoning designs, like Pearl Street, that show concern for the environment and public health.